

Claim Amendments:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Withdrawn) A network rack comprising:

a base;

a pair of upstanding vertical posts extending from said base; and

a top channel horizontally extending between and connecting said vertical posts;

at least one of said vertical posts including an outer wall portion, a front wall portion extending generally perpendicularly inwardly from a front edge of said outer wall portion, a rear wall portion extending generally perpendicularly inwardly from a rear edge of said outer wall portion, a front transverse flange extending generally perpendicularly inwardly from an inward edge of said front wall portion, and a rear transverse flange extending generally perpendicularly inwardly from an inward edge of said rear wall portion, said outer wall portion being generally parallel to said transverse flanges and disposed more remotely from a vertical centerline of said rack than either of said transverse flanges.

11. (Withdrawn) A rack in accordance with claim 10 wherein said rear wall portion is significantly shorter than said front wall portion.

12. (Withdrawn) A rack in accordance with claim 11 wherein said rear wall portion is no more than approximately half as long as said front wall portion.

13. (Withdrawn) A rack in accordance with claim 10 wherein said front wall portion is at least 2 inches across.

14. (Withdrawn) A rack in accordance with claim 13 wherein said front wall portion is at least 4 inches across.

15. (Withdrawn) A rack in accordance with claim 10 wherein said outer wall portion is at least 4 inches across.

16. (Withdrawn) A rack in accordance with claim 15 wherein said outer wall portion is at least 6 inches across.

17. (Withdrawn) A network rack comprising:
a base;
a pair of upstanding vertical posts extending from said base; and
a top channel horizontally extending between and connecting said vertical posts;
said top channel including a cut-out portion generally aligned with each of said vertical posts to facilitate cable access into said vertical posts.

18. (Withdrawn) A rack in accordance with claim 17 wherein said base includes a cut-out portion generally aligned with each of said vertical posts to facilitate cable access into said vertical posts.

19. (New) A network rack comprising:
a base;
a pair of upstanding vertical posts; and
a top channel horizontally extending between and connecting the vertical posts;
the base including a center base portion and a front base portion, the center base portion extends generally between the vertical posts and the front base portion is positioned in front of the vertical posts and the center base portion;
wherein both the center base portion and the front base portion both include an upstanding front wall and an upstanding rear wall, the upstanding front wall of the center base portion abuts the upstanding rear wall of the front base portion.

20. (New) The network rack of claim 19, wherein the upstanding front wall and the upstanding rear wall of the center base portion and the upstanding front wall and the upstanding rear wall of the front base portion include a horizontal flange extending from an upper edge of the walls.

21. (New) The network rack of claim 20, wherein the horizontal flanges of the front and rear walls of the center base portion extend inwardly toward the center of the center base portion and the horizontal flanges of the front and rear walls of the front base portion extend inwardly toward the center of the front base portion.

22. (New) The network rack of claim 20, wherein the front wall of the center base portion is welded to the rear wall of the front base portion, whereby the front wall of the

center base portion, the rear wall of the front base portion and the horizontal flanges form an I-beam.

23. (New) The network rack of claim 19, wherein the upstanding front wall of the center base portion is welded to the upstanding rear wall of the front base portion.

24. (New) The network rack of claim 19, wherein at least one of the upstanding front and rear walls include at least one aperture to permit the passage of cables therethrough.

25. (New) The network rack of claim 19, further comprising a base angle gusset mounted on at least one of said upstanding front and rear walls.